

accelerate their democratic reforms, protect human rights, implement market-oriented economic policies, and enhance their mutual cooperation.

Under the Adriatic Charter, the United States and these three countries pledge to consult whenever the security of one of them is threatened, and the aspirant countries promise to continue defense reforms and undertake steps to enhance border security so they can contribute to regional stability.

Mr. Speaker, the Adriatic Charter is one more important step toward President Bush's goal of a Europe whole and free from the Baltic to the Black Sea. I commend and congratulate the people of Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia on the occasion of the signing of the Adriatic Charter.

□ 1015

AMBER ALERT

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor my colleagues in the House who helped to pass the recent Amber Alert legislation. Last week while I was home in Michigan I saw dramatic evidence of the impact this program can actually have.

Saturday afternoon, 3-year-old Jenna Hart was abducted as she sat in the back seat of her grandmother's car. Her grandmother had taken Jenna to the local Toys R Us to buy her precious granddaughter a few new toys. A man approached her in the parking lot and noted that her tire was flat and offered to fix it, which he did. He then got in the car and drove off with Jenna still strapped into her car seat in the back seat. The report of a missing little girl was issued and the Amber Alert system went into action. I saw the report on a local television station which described the make and the color of the car as well as the license plate number and, like everyone else, was keeping my eyes open looking for the suspect vehicle. Twenty-one hours later a man telephoned police and reported a suspect vehicle in the City of Detroit with a child in the back seat. It was Jenna. The little girl was returned to her family safe and sound, a vivid reminder that the actions that we take in this House can have a very positive impact on families across our Nation.

Because of the Amber Alert system and the watchfulness of thousands of interested citizens, little Jenna has been reunited with her family. May God bless her and her family.

IN RECOGNITION OF DENTON HIGH SCHOOL CHORALE

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, we probably should wish the gentlewoman from Michigan a happy birthday.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize students from my district who are part of the Denton High School Chorale. Last week they had the prestigious honor of performing at the Pentagon at the invitation of the Air Force History Office under the award-winning direction of Mrs. Anne Smith. This patriotic group of 40 students sent musical CDs to the Pentagon and to the New York firefighters to thank them for their hard work and sacrifice after the tragedy of September 11, 2001.

Additionally, the Denton High School Chorale wanted to show their appreciation in person by performing a variety of choral pieces, including their favorite, "Homeland." The choir sang to military personnel in the courtyard of the Pentagon for an hour. A goal of this tour, which included a performance at Carnegie Hall in New York City, was to foster in the students a deeper respect for America and why it must be protected. I know that those who heard their concert were touched by their thoughtfulness. One serviceman responded with a note thanking them for helping him to remember what he is fighting to protect every day.

During these extraordinary times, their actions bring honor to Denton High School, to the great State of Texas and to our great Nation.

REFORM NEEDED AT UNITED NATIONS

(Mr. FOSSELLA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, as the President of the United States has indicated, the war against terror is far from over. The battle may be won but it is far from over. Therefore, I think it is important that the United Nations step up to the plate and reflect reality and serve in the positive role that it can. That is why I think H.R. 800 is a needed step toward reform at the United Nations. It reduces U.S. funding for United Nations commissions like the Commission on Human Rights which have been hijacked by terrorist nations. The latest outrage is Cuba. The dictatorship is in the midst of a brutal crackdown, having executed three men for trying to escape Cuba and imprisoned dozens of others for daring to speak out. The U.N. said nothing about the crackdown but elected Cuba to another term on the human rights panel. The current chair of that panel is Libya, that beacon of human rights. At the beginning of the year, Iraq was going to head the Conference on Disarmament. Iraq did not take over but remained on the commission. Iran chairs that conference. North Korea and Cuba also sit on the Disarmament Committee. This is all symptomatic of a culture of carelessness at

the U.N. It would not be as grave if not for the fact that the United States pays 22 percent of the United Nations' operating budget. Diplomacy and dialogue are important, but sometimes dollars are the only thing that makes sense.

DANGEROUS 15-PASSENGER VANS

(Mr. UDALL of Colorado asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw Members' attention to the dangers of 15passenger vans. These vans have been associated with more than 500 traffic fatalities since 1990. In 2001, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration found that when these vans are fully loaded they have a rollover risk that is six times higher than when there are only five people in the van. I have become alarmingly aware of the danger of these vans when a church group from my district rolled over 2½ times while driving to a religious retreat. Four passengers died in this tragic accident. Only later did I find out that these vans are infamous for getting out of the control of the driver and rolling over.

My colleagues can see firsthand what can happen when these vehicles lose control. This happened again last year when a van carrying firefighters who were on their way to fight a wildfire raging in Colorado lost control and rolled over more than four times, killing four of the firefighters.

These vans were initially designed to carry freight, not people, but now they are widely used by airports, hotels, and other organizations to transport customers and schoolchildren. I have introduced H.R. 1641, the Passenger Van Safety Act, along with Senator SNOWE, to make sure that these needless tragedies end and that the most precious cargo, our children, get home safe and sound.

I encourage my colleagues to join me and Senator SNOWE in cosponsoring this important safety bill.

JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH PACKAGE

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues in the House to support a real jobs and economic growth package. It is time to bring much-needed stimulus to our economy and to bring renewed hope to American workers. There are currently several million Americans actively looking for work and unable to find it. For those individuals and those families, it is imperative that we do all that we can to put this willing, able and well-qualified workforce to work. We must provide